

THOMAS M. BARRETT
5TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4905

1214 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3571

135 WEST WELLS STREET
ROOM 618
MILWAUKEE, WI 53203
(414) 297-1331

<http://www.house.gov/barrett>
e-mail: telltom@mail.house.gov

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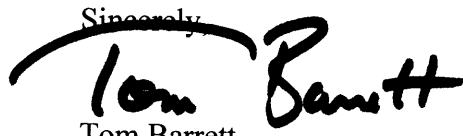
Ms. Kimberly Topper
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1093
Mail Stop #HS21
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

I am aware that the FDA's Anesthetic and Life Support Drugs Advisory Committee is convening June 14-15 to consider the use of opiate pain medication. I encourage you to hear the testimony of Tom Barnes, the Director of the American Society for Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy - Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (RSD-CRPS) Association, at this hearing.

As you may know, RSD-CRPS is an extremely painful, multi-symptomatic disease that typically develops after a trauma to the body, such as a fracture, sprain or surgery. It results in severe burning pain, tissue swelling, muscle spasms, joint stiffness, and extreme sensitivity to touch. The symptoms, which may begin at the site of injury, can spread throughout the body and worsen over time. This terrible disease is estimated to afflict nearly 7 million Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Kira Dahlk in my office (225-3571) to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett
Member of Congress

TB:kd